Godliness, a Beautiful Trait of the Character of Jesus

Godliness, defined in the dictionary as an attitude of admiration, deep respect, and strict obedience, is a remarkable and particularly beautiful trait in the character of Lord Jesus. He represented the highest example of authentic godliness, manifested through complete obedience to the Heavenly Father, as evidenced in John 5:19, where it is stated: “The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”

Through His coming to earth, Lord Jesus left us essential teachings meant to guide us to this stage where we have deep godliness towards God. This godliness does not involve just deep admiration, but also strict adherence to His teachings, being a necessary stage in our transformation process that brings peace and rest to the soul.

There must come a time in our lives when the perfect disciple is like his Master, as Luke 6:40 says, “The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.” It is a stage when we have reached the stature of doing nothing of ourselves but only what we see the Lord Jesus has done, as 2 Corinthians 10:5 says, “Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

Just as a resident in computer-assisted cardiac surgery begins their career by performing basic procedures, initially placing less emphasis on extreme precision, in our spiritual process of conforming to the image of Christ, we also begin as a child with more general and less rigorous actions. As we approach the stature of a grown man, the importance of complete obedience, according to the Scriptures - by which we bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ - becomes increasingly imperative.

Throughout our spiritual development, similar to the growth in complexity and precision of a resident, the necessity to be more precise in following Christ’s example increases. In the early stages, similar to spiritual infancy or childhood, our conformity to the image of the Lord cannot be detailed or exact, as 1 Corinthians 13:11 says - “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

However, as we progress and mature in faith and understanding, it becomes essential to improve our precision in following the teachings and example of Christ. The ultimate goal is to develop to the point where we mirror as faithfully as possible His character and actions, resembling Him not only in major actions but also in the smallest details of

our lives.

To reach the height of Christ's stature, it is vital to reach this stage where we strictly fulfill the teachings of our Lord. Through rigorous adherence, we prepare for the completion of our spiritual journey, where no deviation is allowed. Along this path, it is mandatory to learn strict adherence, which becomes essential in the final phase, as we are ever closer to reaching the stature of Christ.

According to Scripture, there is a way that leads to godliness, therefore it is mandatory to follow this path. The passage from 1 Timothy 6:3-4 emphasizes the importance of godliness or strict obedience. The text says: "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing."

Our goal must be to align with the model of godliness of the Son of God, which involves total and sincere obedience to divine commandments and teachings. Only such a commitment to God's plan will bring us ever closer to the character and example of the Lord.

We must be aware that through a single act of disobedience, Adam experienced spiritual death and was exiled from the Garden of Eden. Thus, surpassing the stature of the first Adam, who was not distinguished by strict obedience, is fundamental for our own spiritual transformation.

According to what is written in 1 Timothy 4:8, "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come," it is emphasized that strict adherence is beneficial not only in the present life but also in the future one.

It is not enough to be content with superficial godliness, believing that mere admiration or acknowledgment of God will secure us a place in His Kingdom. The text from 2 Timothy 3:2-5 warns us about the danger of having only an outward form of godliness, without its authentic power. This reminds us that true godliness involves much more than admiration or religious rituals.

Therefore, it is essential to evaluate ourselves with deep sincerity. Let us ask ourselves: Do we admire and are we inspired by the obedience and strict obedience of the commandments by His Son at such a deep level that we desire the same measure of authentic obedience? Such an approach does not just involve words and rituals, but implies a profound inner change and total devotion.

Conclusion:

To come to understand the peace and soul rest that characterizes existence in this kingdom, similar to that experienced by the Lord Jesus, it is essential to consider one of His defining qualities: “longsuffering.” This fundamental trait must be acquired to authentically live the peace and inner rest in which Lord Jesus lived.

In the Kingdom of God, the idea of conflict, whether internal or external, does not exist. This indicates a state of absolute peace and rest for all the kingdom’s inhabitants, regardless of their status, eliminating any form of opposition, disagreements, power struggles, and acts of violence. Longsuffering is the distinctive characteristic of all the Kingdom’s inhabitants.

Longsuffering is the rule that manifests in the relationships between its inhabitants, where each maintains the state of soul rest, which does not allow the loss of patience that would bring disturbance. Thus, longsuffering not only facilitates harmony and inner peace but is also the cornerstone of peaceful coexistence in the Kingdom of God.

This trait has its roots in Christ’s teachings and is closely linked to the practice of self-denial, humility, strict obedience as a servant, and godliness. Longsuffering is not just passive tolerance; it is rather an active quality, manifested through the ability to respond to challenges and difficulties while maintaining peace and soul rest.

It is based on a profound understanding and acceptance of God’s will, thus reflecting a firm commitment to Christ’s principles and unwavering trust in the divine plan.

We can easily observe that often, from a young age, we are encouraged to defend and claim our rights in the face of oppression or injustice. This mentality is reflected in the creation of governmental institutions that protect individual rights, as well as in the existence of emergency services and law enforcement, which we can call upon to defend and oppose those who harm us.

In contrast to these secular teachings, Christ gives us completely opposite teachings and guides us towards a completely different path. To reach His stature and acquire His longsuffering and kindness, it is vital to submit to His teachings and adopt the attitude He had towards His oppressors.

The first step in this process of transitioning from impatience, anger, disturbance, to longsuffering is relinquishing our own human ideas and opinions about how patience can be achieved.

The next step is joyfully accepting the words of Scripture related to this virtue. An essential teaching of Lord Jesus, which brings patience into our hearts, is the principle

of non-resistance, as expressed in Matthew 5:40-41: “And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.”

Although often misunderstood and considered a sign of weakness or lack of firmness, non-resistance actually represents remarkable strength and a profound method of cultivating patience, peace, and inner wisdom. To implement it effectively, it is essential to submit and follow the teachings of our Mentor. We observe today that relatively few choose to accept to practice this teaching promoted by Lord Jesus.

In the face of situations that test our commitment to the principle of non-resistance, whether we face injustices at work, such as being asked to work overtime without our consent, or tensions in the family sphere, such as misunderstandings with a life partner, or other similar situations, it is vital to demonstrate our dedication in the way a loyal servant fulfills his duties to his master.

This strategy involves an intentional and conscious application of non-resistance, not as an obligation, but from a deep appreciation of its importance and effectiveness in personal transformation and achieving inner peace.

The school of patience is an essential transformative process for each of us, as patience is vital in perfecting our character, as James 1:2-4 emphasizes, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

As we grow spiritually, God tests us with greater challenges, helping us become more like Christ. By applying godliness, that is, strict and devoted fulfillment, we will perfect long-suffering down to the smallest details.

As we have illustrated this essential trait, we will need to adopt every trait of Lord Jesus, such as faithfulness, gentleness, peace of heart, kindness, love... living with self-denial, humility, and godliness towards all His teachings. Each teaching of His Son opens a perspective on His nature, reflecting His divine perfection.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet “The Purpose of Life”, which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.